

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9475

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 0668

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, HA

SUBJECT: STAMP SCANDAL: DETAINEES/FRITZ LEROY

REF: PAUP 635 & PREVIOUS

1. DETAINEES--ONE OF HARRY TIPPENHAUER'S SONS REPORTS THAT RELATIVES OF DETAINEES ARE PERMITTED TO GO DAILY TO A WAITING ROOM AT THE CASERNES DESSALINES, WHERE ALL THE DETAINEES ARE NOW BEING HELD, TO DELIVER FOOD AND FRESH LAUNDRY. THE SON WAS DEPRESSED THAT EVERY DAY THE LAUNDRY RETURNED IN AN EXTREMELY SOILED CONDITION, SUGGESTING THAT HIS FATHER DID NOT HAVE A PROPER BED TO SLEEP ON, AND THAT HIS FATHER DID NOT APPEAR TO BE EATING. HE ADDED THAT THE GUARDS ALWAYS ASKED THE RELATIVES TO EAT SOME OF THE FOOD THEY BROUGHT TO PROVE THAT IT WAS NOT POISONED. HE SAID HE LEARNED THAT EACH DETAINEE IS ISOLATED IN A SEPARATE CELL, AND SO FAR IS UNABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH ANYBODY EXCEPT GOH INVESTIGATORS AND PRISON OFFICIALS.

2. LEROY THE NAMES OF THE DETAINEES ARE WIDELY KNOWN AROUND TOWN, AS IS THE FACT THAT FRANTZ LEROY IS THE PRIME SUSPECT. ONE PERSISTENT RUMOR EVEN IS THAT LEROY WAS ARRESTED IN MIAMI MARCH 20. LEROY'S WIFE, MARLENE, AND DETAINEE DOMINGUE'S WIFE BOTH CONTINUE TO SHOW UP FOR WORK AT THE FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK.

3. AS IF RELECTIVE OF THE CONFLICTING CONCERNS BEING EXPRESSED WITHIN THE GOH ITSELF, LE MATIN ON THE ONE HAND REPORTED MARCH 21 THAT WHILE THE JUDICIAL INQUIRY BEING MADE MUST REMAIN SECRET AT CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS STAGE, IT WAS HOPEFUL IT MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO REPORT TO THE

PUBLIC BY SUNDAY BASED ON ITS OWN INVESTIGATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, CONVICTION, AN OFFICIAL BUT DESERVEDLY LITTLE READ WEEKLY NEWSPAPER THAT UNABASHEDLY ADVOCATES OLD STYLE DUVALIERISM, APPEALED FOR STIFF DUVALIERIST JUSTICE. IT SAID THAT THOSE WHO HAVE "IGNOMINIOUSLY BETRAYED THE CONFIDENCE PLACED IN THEM BY THE CHIEF OF STATE" SHOULD BE SEVERELY PUNISHED AS AN EXAMPLE TO ALL THE OTHER "NEO-DUVALIERIST OPPORTUNISTS AND PHARISEES" WHO HAVE INFILTRATED THE RANKS OF TRUE DUVALIERISTS.

4. CONVICTION'S FULMINATIONS NOTWITHSTANDING, WE ARE STILL HOPEFUL THAT THERE WILL BE PUBLIC TRIALS THAT WILL REQUIRE THE PROSECUTION TO PRESENT A PLAUSIBLE CASE AGAINST THE ACCUSED. IF THERE IS NO DIRECT EVIDENCE LINKING SERGE FOURCAND TO THE STAMP CASE, HE COULD ALWAYS BE CHARGED, AS RESPONSIBLE MINISTER, WITH DERELICTION OF DUTY IN HIS CONTROL OF COMMERCE'S OPERATIONS. WHILE THIS WOULD HARDLY SATISFY HIS ENEMIES, IT WOULD AT LEAST PROVIDE A JUSTIFICATION, HOWEVER LAME, FOR HIS DISMISSAL FROM OFFICE, AND POSSIBLY HEAD OFF A MORE POLITICALLY DISRUPTIVE SET OF ACCUSATIONS AGAINST HIM FOR ALLEGED CORRUPTION ON OTHER MATTERS.

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